

# The National Tribune

WASHINGTON, D. C., JUNE, 1879.

## TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

### POSTAGE PREPAID.

One copy—One Year	50 Cents
Five Copies, " " " "	\$2.00
Ten copies, (with extra copy to getter-up of Club.)	4.00

For every fifteen subscribers we receive from any party we will forward our "NATIONAL TRIBUNE Clock" free, said party paying express charges. He may send a few names at a time, at 50 cents each, and when the fifteen are made up the clock will be forwarded.

A specimen number of our paper sent free, on request.

Terms for advertising furnished upon application.

N. B. See our article in another column in regard to forming clubs to procure "THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE clock," in combination with THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

**To Subscribers.**—When changing your address please give former as well as present address, with County and State.

**Take Notice.**—In sending money for subscriptions by mail, never inclose the currency except in a registered letter. A postal money order or a draft on New York is the best form of remittance. Losses by mail will be most surely avoided if these directions are followed.

No responsibility is assumed for subscriptions paid to agents, which must be at the risk of the subscriber.

Communications, subscriptions, and letters upon all business matters relating to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, should be addressed to—

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE CO.,  
Washington, D. C.

### Important Special Notice.

Such being the usual—in fact, only proper and honorable mode of procedure—all parties having claims against the Government of the United States, of any nature, should communicate only with the attorney they have appointed to attend to their business in Washington in relation thereto. Upon the receipt of any letter or document referring to their case, they should refrain from answering it, and at once transmit it to their attorney, to take such action upon it as he may deem advisable.

### The Extra Session

We fondly hoped would, ere it closed, devise and adopt some measures specially benefiting the soldiers; but now (June 17) an adjournment is anticipated next week, and nothing will have been done with regard to the Equalization Bounty Bill, the reorganization of the Pension Office, and other measures the soldiers are all interested in. It is indeed lamentable that more attention cannot be given to business which urgently needs attention, and less to the struggles of partisans, anxious for the advancement of favorite candidates for the Presidency, or the putting up or pulling down of certain pet jobs and fat contracts. In thus writing we intend to reflect upon no party, nor any man or men, but to mention the "situation of affairs" as it really and unfortunately exists.

### How our Paper is Appreciated.

Our warm-hearted soldier friend, W. A. Rice, of North Wilbraham, Mass., writes us: "If the soldiers all knew of 'THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE,' you could soon get forty thousand subscribers, I am certain. I shall do all I can to introduce it, and I presume you will get thousands of subscribers in this State before 1880. Why? Because it is the paper of all papers for ex-soldiers. It contains so much we want to know and keeps us posted on all acts that would be likely to interest us. The information it contains is worth dollars to every soldier." And Mr. Turpening, formerly of the glorious 12th Illinois Cavalry, residing at Mount Ayr, Iowa, says to us: "I am glad we have a paper that the soldier can speak through. Every soldier should take it and sustain it, and his rights, with money, thought, word, pen, and acts."

### The Two Creditors.

If John Smith, representing himself as the agent or attorney of John Brown, engages, in the presence of said Brown, one hundred or one thousand men to perform a certain work, and that work is begun, carried on, and completed by the employees, and then payment is refused, any court of equity in the United States will decree that John Brown, being the party specially benefitted by the labor, shall be compelled to pay therefor. Now, when the war of the rebellion broke out, the United States sent out its agents in the shape of Colonels, Majors, and Captains, to every part of the land, to raise for it regiments, battalions, and companies, to fight its battles. There was no compulsion to go into the field; the act of enlistment was voluntary; it was a contract made between the agents of the United States and certain men to fight. We challenge any contradiction to this proposition. These men, hired by Colonel Black, Major White, and Captain Green, were promised certain monthly pay, rations, clothing, medical attendance with such bounty, and, if disabled, such pension. If they were killed in the service then those dependent upon them were to be cared for by the Government. There was scarcely a flaming hand-bill issued and publicly posted which did not contain these promises. How have they been fulfilled? We admit fully according to contract except as to pension and bounty. As to these how does the case stand? Although in the latter part of the war bounties were liberal, all are aware that many soldiers, particularly in 1862, never received one cent of bounty. Now, if the United States was an individual and not a nation, here are debts which could be recovered by law, and the New York Post-office might pass under the hammer of the sheriff. But this cannot be done. She is a debtor who cannot be touched. She is in the position of an infant who can accept a deed of property, but cannot be compelled to pay a debt. Well, about the same time these soldier obligations were entered into, other pecuniary engagements were made. The United States issued promises to pay in the shape of bonds and "greenbacks." The former were sold in Europe and at home, and the latter were used chiefly to carry on the war. The greenbacks issued, speedily found their way, to a great extent, into the hands of foreign bankers and speculators, who obtained them for probably not over sixty cents on the dollar, gold valuation, and speedily converted them into interest-bearing bonds. Now, when the war was concluded, the question was discussed in Congress and by the press all over the country, "How are these bonds payable?" Justice and equity combined would suggest their payment in the kind of money paid for them, but the bankers and brokers and capitalists throughout the land demanded gold. Congress finally said, "gold let it be," and then commenced the hoarding of the metal in the Treasury vaults, the absorption of currency and the reduction of values for property and labor. Such has been the action of the Congress of the United States toward one class of her creditors. Turn we to the other. The promises made to the bondholders were on printed pieces of bank-note paper, those to the soldiers in the Statutes of the United States, and on the handbills of recruiting officers. Is the payment of one any more just than the other? Are we more honorably and sacredly bound to pay a note of hand, given to a party, than to pay for wages at work the most dangerous and arduous? The OUTRAGEOUS WRONG constantly committed against our soldiers is, in regarding them as OF ALTOGETHER SECONDARY IMPORTANCE. If there is any money left over, why perhaps they may secure part of it. Instead of considering their claims FIRST, they are the LAST to receive attention. It really is a matter to create indignation, when we hear that Mr. Secretary of the Treasury thinks he can "only spare" so many thousands per month to meet the arrears payments. Why not speak to bondholders in the same language? Say to them, "Gentlemen, these bonds are due; we owe you the money, but we can only spare you this month \$1,000,000, though you are entitled to \$5,000,000." O! no; you will not thus treat the bondholders, the poor, stricken, unfortunate bondholders, but those affluent, princely fellows, who live on the prairies and mountains, in their cabins and thatched cottages, who swing the axe and follow the plow,

they surely need nothing now. And not only is there tardiness and lukewarmness shown in making payment of the pension and bounty debt, but the United States authorities place men in the highest positions of the Pension Office, who openly and constantly insult the soldiers of America and their widows and orphans, by suggesting a distrust, a denial, a disbelief in testimony furnished, to establish the debt due by the Government. Every possible stumbling block is thrown in the way to prevent the soldier from obtaining his honest and just demands, and men who periled everything to save their country from destruction, are regarded as knaves and pickpockets, striving to filch from the Treasury of the United States. Against this uncalled for partiality towards one portion of the creditors of the United States, and this continuously unjust action of the Pension Office, we shall ever "cry aloud and spare not," and when considering the claims of the two creditors this paper will constantly announce and maintain the sentiment "Pay first the men who saved the country, and afterwards those who were saved."

### Death of General James Shields.

Most of our readers, perhaps, will have heard of his departure ere this number reaches them. It took place suddenly on the 1st of June, at Ottumwa, Iowa, while on a visit from his home in Carrollton, Missouri. It seems but a few days since when we saw him in good health in the Senate, and heard him exposing the iniquity of that infamous sixty-surgeons bill, intended to rob the soldiers and their widows and orphans. General Shields was born in Ireland, in the year 1810, and emigrated to the United States in his sixteenth year. We hear of him soon after as a school teacher at the little village of Kaskaskia, Ill. Ere long he became a member of the legislature of Illinois. He was awhile commissioner of the General Land Office at Washington, and on the breaking out of the Mexican war commanded a regiment of volunteers from his adopted State. His bravery and courage were undisputed, and in one engagement a ball passed directly through his lungs. At the close of the war he was elected United States Senator from Illinois, and served six years. Removing to Minnesota, he entered into the pursuits of farming, when he was taken from his retirement and sent as a Senator from the State of Minnesota to Washington.

Changing his residence to Missouri he again became an agriculturist, laboring in the fields with his employees and living in unpretending simplicity. But the war of the rebellion broke out, and General Shields took the field on behalf of his country. His record in the Valley of Virginia was one of marked honor. But age was creeping upon him, and ere the war closed he retired to his western home. But new honors were forced upon him. There being a vacancy for a brief time in the U. S. Senate from Missouri, again the old patriot was chosen to go to that body. Thus three States have been represented in the Senate by General Shields—a circumstance which never before has arisen or probably, will ever arise in the history of any man. The old soldier and statesman died in peace and painless and his memory deserves to be revered continuously by the people of a country he loved so devotedly.

### Those Terrible Little Leeches.

There are probably many readers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE who are not thoroughly posted as to the meaning of the word *coupon*. Well, a coupon is nothing more than a little leech, constantly sucking at the Treasury of the United States. There are millions and millions of them, drawing out the life-blood of the country.

Their father is a bond of the United States, and these little fellows are attached to him, as a matter of course. They are about the size of our fractional currency bills, and call for various amounts, from fifty cents upward. They are dying constantly and constantly coming to life; when one leech departs another takes his place, for the sucking process never ceases. These creatures are owned by parties, at home and abroad, who live in luxury and magnificence, in London, Paris, New York, Boston, and other cities, on nutriment secured by these leeches. Now, we are not about to treat extensively on the